



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

PRESS RELEASE

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TUCSON DOCTOR JERI B. HASSMAN PLEADS GUILTY

TUCSON, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announces that defendant JERI B. HASSMAN, M.D., 47 years old, of Tucson, Arizona, entered pleas of guilty today to a four count Information charging the defendant with four counts of Accessory After the Fact in violation of Title 18 USC Section 3.

During the change of plea before United States District Judge David C. Bury, defendant JERI B. HASSMAN admitted that on four occasions - April 23, 2001, July 28, 2001, August 3, 2001 and March 12, 2002, she assisted four individuals, both patients and non-patients, in order to hinder or prevent the apprehension, trial or punishment of those individuals, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3, knowing the four individuals had committed an offense against the United States by unlawfully acquiring and obtaining a Schedule II Controlled substances by misrepresentation or deception, a violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 843(a)(3). The controlled substances obtained by misrepresentation or deception were OxyContin and Methadone, Schedule II Controlled Substances.

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The defendant admitted in Count I of the Information that she learned that a prescription written for a patient was taken by another patient to be filled but never provided to the patient. Instead, the prescription was taken to an unknown male in violation of Title 21 USC Section 843(a)(3). Upon learning this information, the defendant continued to treat both patients and failed to report the illegal act of the possession of the controlled substance by the unknown male.

In Count II, the defendant admitted that she learned that a patient who had received a prescription for Dexedrine had also unlawfully received a prescription for OxyContin for his deceased father. Upon learning this information, defendant did knowingly fail to rescind the prescription for Dexedrine and failed to report the patient's illegal act to any law enforcement authority.

The defendant admitted in Count III that during an initial office visit she learned that a patient had taken possession of her deceased husband's prescription for OxyContin and ingested the controlled substance. Upon learning this information, defendant did knowingly accept the patient and treat her and failed to report the patient's illegal act to any law enforcement agency.

In Count IV, defendant admitted that a patient told her that another person had stolen his OxyContin prescription. Later, another patient also told defendant that the same person had taken half of her prescription for Methadone. Upon learning this information from the two patients, the defendant knowingly failed to report the person's illegal act to any law enforcement authority.

On November 1, 2002, the Drug Enforcement Administration revoked defendant's registration to handle Schedule II, III, IV and V Controlled Substances. Defendant has agreed to voluntarily withdrawn her administrative appeal of that decision.

As part of her plea agreement, defendant has agreed to not reapply for registration to handle controlled substances for at least one year. The defendant has also agreed not to participate in the

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government's Tricare medical insurance program. The defendant must also complete any court ordered community service and attend additional training in pain management and addiction treatment.

On March 25, 2003, a grand jury in the District of Arizona returned an indictment charging defendant with multiple counts related to controlled substances and false statements relating to health care matters. Trial in this matter was set for February 18, 2004.

As a result of her pleas of guilty, defendant HASSMAN faces statutory maximum penalties of up to eight (8) years of imprisonment, a \$500,000 fine, or both. Defendant HASSMAN is scheduled to be sentenced on April 8, 2004, at 8:45 a.m. by United States District Judge David C. Bury.

This prosecution is the result of an investigation by several federal law enforcement agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Defense's Defense Criminal Investigative Service. The prosecution is being handled by the United States Department States Attorney's Office in Tucson, Arizona

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